



U.S. Department of Energy  
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy



## Asilomar Conference “The Hydrogen Transition” August 1, 2003

### **FreedomCAR and Fuel Initiative**

**H<sub>2</sub>**

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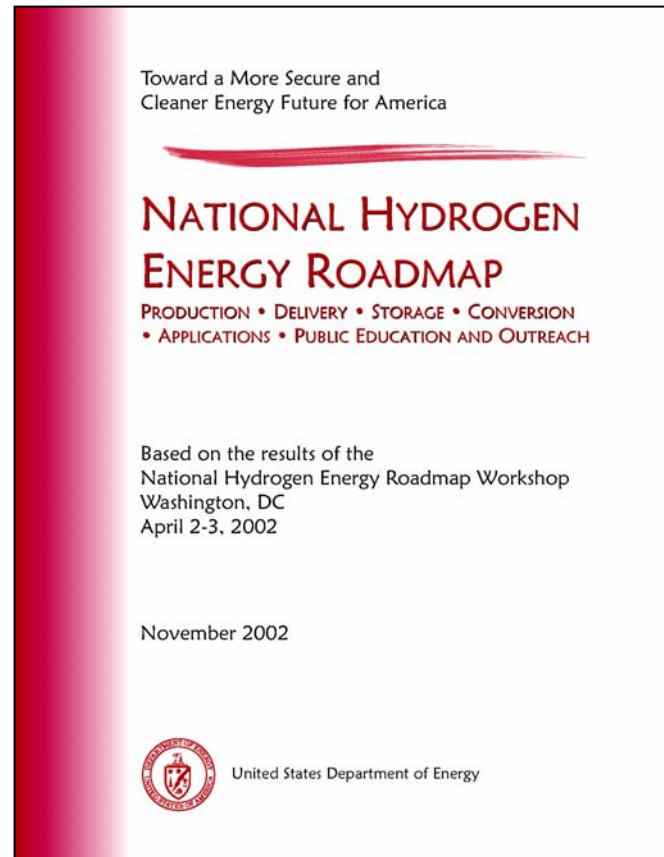
# Barriers to Hydrogen Economy

## Technology Barriers

1. Hydrogen storage systems for vehicles are inadequate to meet customer driving range expectations without intrusion into vehicle cargo or passenger space.
2. Hydrogen is currently three to four times as expensive as gasoline.
3. Fuel cells are ten times more expensive than internal combustion engines and do not maintain performance over the full useful life of the vehicle.

## Economic and Institutional Barriers

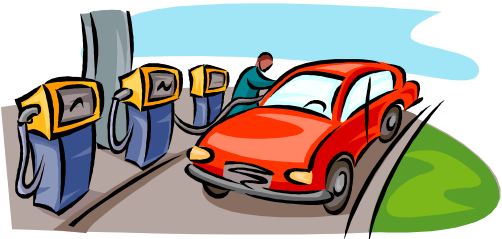
1. Investment risk of developing a hydrogen delivery infrastructure is too great, given technology status and current demand.
2. Uniform model codes and standards to ensure safety, insurability, and fair global competition are lacking.
3. Local code officials, policy makers, and the general public lack education regarding hydrogen safety and benefits.





# Approach to Overcoming Barriers

- Establish time-phased technical targets that measure progress against barriers
- Targets from R,D&D Plans used to establish performance-based milestones and deliverables in implementation mechanisms (Lab Annual Operating Plans, Industry Cooperative Agreements, etc) established with National Labs, contractors and universities
- DOE role ramps down as targets are met in “systems context” under real operating conditions (Fuel Cell Report to Congress lays out timelines for hydrogen vehicles and infrastructure)



Hydrogen vehicle and infrastructure  
“learning” demonstrations - Current DOE  
Solicitation, \$150 M over 5 years



FutureGen: Emissions-free coal plant  
to generate hydrogen and electricity  
with carbon capture/sequestration,  
solicitation \$1 billion over 10 years



## THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

*Advisers to the Nation on Science, Engineering, and Medicine*

- Helping to develop the hydrogen production feedstock strategy by prioritizing research areas
- Evaluating Hydrogen Fuel Cells R, D & D Plan
- Bringing together experts from diversity of private sector fields and academia

Creating a Systems Integrations Plan to analyze all models & pathways and appropriately integrate individual efforts with overall objectives at the macro-system level.

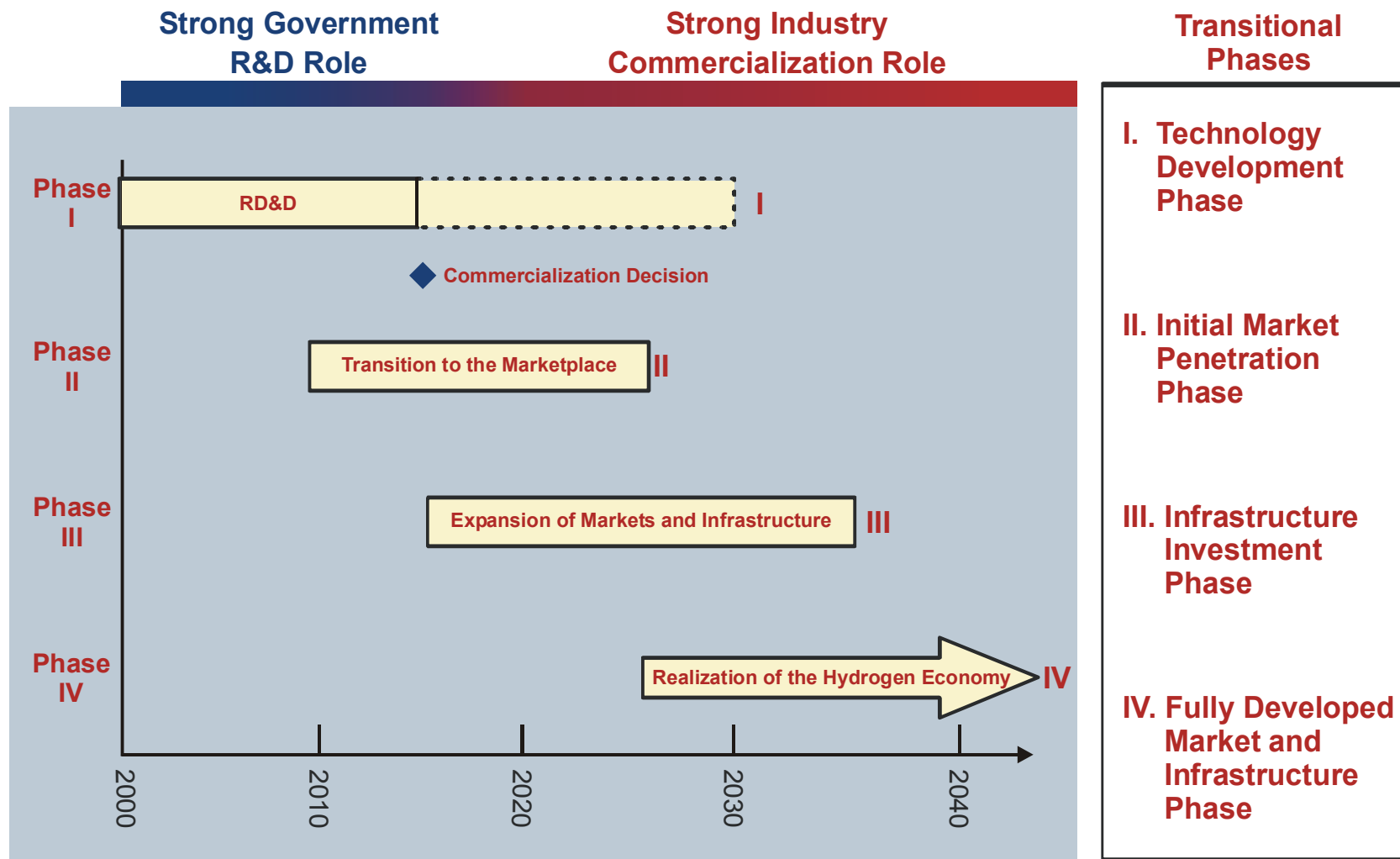


### Hydrogen Storage “Grand Challenge”

- Building on Storage “Think Tank” meetings, involving 4 Nobel Laureates and 7 award-winning scientists (ACS, APS, and NSF awards; Presidential Young Investigators)
- Creating integrated teams of technology experts and researchers in virtual research center



# Timeline







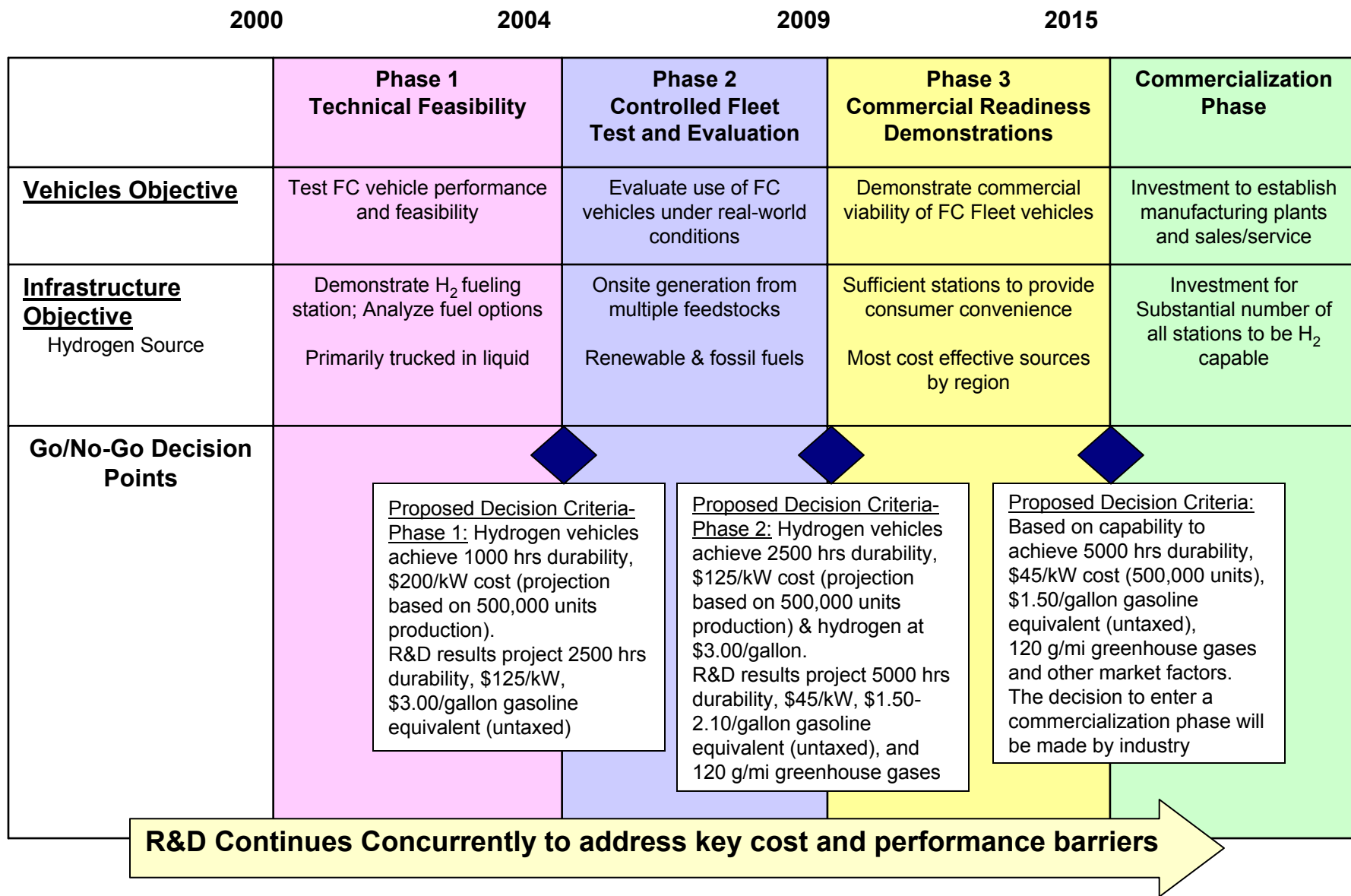
# Approach to Policy

*Predominate Policy now is R&D, with background research for future safety regulations and codes and standards*

- Too early for large scale demonstrations
- Will lower costs through materials R&D and improving performance, not through premature volume production
- Early adopter conditions
  - Close to meeting customer requirements
  - Business case near establishment point
- Role for “learning” demonstrations”



# Evaluating the Technology Pathway





- 3 Phases of Demonstrations
  - 1. Technical Feasibility
  - 2. Controlled Fleet Test and Evaluation
  - 3. Commercial Readiness Demonstrations